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(71) Applicant: Dompé S.P.A. I-67100 L'Aquila (IT)

(72) Inventors:

NL PT SE

Boltri, Luigi
 67100 L'Aquila (IT)

 Coppola, Antonietta 67100 L'Aquila (IT)

• Gentile, Marco 67100 L'Aquila (IT)

 Clavenna, Gaetano 67100 L'Aquila (IT)

(74) Representative: Minoja, Fabrizio Studio Consulenza Brevettuale, Via Rossini, 8 20122 Milano (IT)

(54) Pharmaceutical formulations in form of thixotropic gel

(57) The present invention relates to a topical formulation of gel-like consistency, but nebulizable by a mechanical pump, containing colloidal silices as gelifying agent.

Description

The present invention relates to a topical formulation of gel-like consistency, but nebulizable by mechanical pump, containing colloidal silices as gelifying agent.

PRIOR ART

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The preparation of a semi-solid system nebulizable by means of a spray mechanical system seemed up to now to be an unsurmountable problem. In fact, efforts to prepare formulations making use of the conventional, most used gelifying agents lead to the production of gels which, although being highly valid, are absolutely not sprayable. Even making a compromise, namely decreasing the system viscosity, at the most the emission of the product from the mechanical pump is obtained, but not the nebulization. Moreover, decreasing viscosity, the product tends to leak once sprayed on the concerned part.

In the cosmetic field, the so-called gel-sprays exist, which however have an exceedingly low viscosity, thereby tending to leak after the emission, therefore they cannot be even defined gels. Moreover they are usually prepared using acrylates such as Carbopols.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention overcomes the problems of the prior art, by the use of a high viscosity system, which is nearly semisolid, characterized in that it is destructurated by a mechanical stress

The pharmaceutical formulations in form of thixotropic gel of the present invention will contain, besides an active ingredient, a colloidal silica in an amount from 2 to 15% by weight, propylene glycol in an amount from 1 to 10% by weight. Water and any excipients conventionally used in the pharmaceutical techniques, such as surfactants, preservatives, flavouring agents, co-solvents and lipophilic phases can also be present. Particularly preferred surfactants are those belonging to the following classes:

- Sorbitan esters (for example Span 20, Span 40, Span 60, Span 65, Span 80, Span 85);
- Polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters (for example Tween 80, Tween 60, Tween 40, Tween 20);
- Polyoxyethylalkyl ethers (for example Cremophor A, Bryj, Texofor A);
- Polyoxyethylene stearates (for example Myrj 52, Myrj 53).

The pharmaceutical formulations of the invention will preferably contain a colloidal silica having a surface area of 175-225 m²/g and an average diameter of 12 nm, in amounts ranging from 2 to 8%, more preferably from 2.5 to 7% by weight.

In the pharmaceutical formulations of the invention, water may be present in an amount ranging from 60 to 97% by weight.

The present invention provides a system characterized by:

- Pseudoplasticity: the viscosity decreases with the increase in the intensity of the applied stress:
 - Thixotropy: the viscosity decreases with time, as the applied stress goes on.

The system of the present invention uses as gelifying agent colloidal silices, which are excipients widely used in the topical field as thickening and suspending agents, and in the oral solid as lubricants.

It should be noted that within the definition "colloidal silica" lie several commercial products used as pharmaceutical excipients, whose characteristics can be summarized as follows:

Surface area from 50 to 400 m²/g Average diameter from 7 to 40 nm.

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All of these materials give similar gelification phenomena but, since gelification occurs through adsorption, the surface area characteristics become paramount for the choice of the type and amount of colloidal silica to use.

Suitable silices according to the invention have a surface area ranging from 130 to 300 m²/g and an average diameter of 12 nm.

The present invention uses specifically as colloidal silices Aerosils, preferably colloidal silices with characteristics similar to Aerosil 200.

Aerosil characteristics of pseudoplasticity and thixotropy are well known, however up to now said characteristics have not been made use of in order to spray/nebulize a product in the form of gel by the simple pressure of a finger.

In essentially aqueous systems, aerosils (only) at high concentrations (5-15%) cause the structuration of water through adsorption phenomena, until a consistence of gel (or, more correctly, magma). The Aerosil-Water bond is very mild and it can be cleaved by even slight stresses, such as those caused by a mechanical pump. During the stress, and therefore during the spray, the viscosity of the system remarkably decreases, thereby allowing the nebulization. Once applied to the skin, the sprayed product, no longer stressed, quickly returns to its original state, acquiring back a gellike consistence.

It is particularly surprising that, when in the formulation of the invention besides Aerosil and water, a less polar solvent is also present, such as glycerol, polyoxyethylene glycol, diethylene glycol monoalkyl ether (Transcutol[™]), N-methylpyrrolidone, glycofurol, isopropanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, viscosity falls upon the slightest mechanical stress; in the absence of said solvent, such a phenomenon appears less markedly, but anyhow so as not to affect adversely the thixotropic characteristics according to the invention. The use of the propylene glycol is particularly preferred.

The topical gel formulation of the present invention can be administered with a suitable dosage, through doser mechanical pumps which dispense prefixed volumes.

The topical formulations of the present invention can be used, besides for the topical administration on the skin, also for the vaginal, nasal, otological administration, wherein the absence of leakage and the in loco persistence are particularly important.

The gels of the present invention will preferably be dispensed by means of mechanical pump dispensers.

The formulations of the invention can also contain all of the active ingredients whose topical administration is therapeutically effective. Examples of active ingredients which can be used in the formulations of the invention comprise: non-steroidal antiinflammatory agents, such as ketoprofen, ibuprofen (including optical isomers and salts thereof), naproxen, diclofenac, diflunisal, nimesulide, ketorolac, flurbiprofen, indomethacin, acetylsalicylic acid and the like; antifungal drugs such as miconazole, econazole, fluconazole, tyrothricin, antibacterials/antibiotics such as polymyxin, neomycin, kanamycin, gentamycin, tetracycline, medlocycline, clindamycin; antiviral drugs such as acyclovir, cytarabine; corticosteroids; antihistamines; sympathomimetic drugs; antiallergic drugs such as disodium cromoglycate; local anesthetics; cicatrizants; capillary-protective substances; bioflavonoids; retinoids; vitamins; enzymes; growth factors.

Some examples of pharmaceutical and para-pharmaceutical formulations containing active ingredients at therapeutical concentrations are reported hereinbelow. a.i. = active ingredient

PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATIONS

EXAMPLE 1

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| a.i. | Ketoprofen Lys | 15 g |
|------|----------------------|-------|
| | colloidal silica | 5 g |
| | propylene glycol | 5 g |
| | Tween 80 | 0.5 g |
| | Na nipagin | 0.1 g |
| | Nerolene lavender | 0.1 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |
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EXAMPLE 2

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| a.i. | miconazole nitrate | 2 g |
|------|------------------------------------|--------|
| | propylene glycol | 10 g |
| | colloidal silica | 3 g |
| | esterified polyoxyethylene glycols | 3 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 0.5 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | malva perfume | 0.5 g |
| | demin water a.s. to | 100 a |

EXAMPLE 3

| a.i. | disodium cromoglycate | 4 g |
|------|-----------------------|-------|
| | propylene glycol | 5 g |
| | colloidal silica | 5.5 g |
| | sodium edetate | 10 mg |
| | polysorbate 80 | 0.5 g |
| | benzalkonium chloride | 10 mg |
| | menthol | 0.3 g |
| | eucalyptol | 0.1 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

oxymetazoline hydrochloride

monobasic sodium phosphate dibasic sodium phosphate

a.i.

0.050 g

1.020 g

1.110 g

EXAMPLE 4

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EDTA 0.010 g propylene glycol 5.0 g colloidal silica 5.0 g Tween 20 0.5 g sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g menthol 0.4 g eucalyptol 0.1 g demin. water q.s. to 100 g

25 EXAMPLE 5

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a.i. menthol 0.4 g <u>camphor</u> 0.4 g <u>eucalyptol</u> 0.2 g sodium phosphate monobasic 1.02 g sodium phosphate dibasic 1.11 g **EDTA** 0.01 g propylene glycol 8,0 g colloidal silica 4,0 g polysorbate 80 1.0 g sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g 100 g demin. water q.s. to

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EXAMPLE 6

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a.i. tyrothricin 0.02 g 0.05 g cethyltrimethylammonium bromide 0.05 g <u>benzocaine</u> PEG 200 4 g colloidal silica 4 g ethyl alcohol 5 g Cremophor A11 0.7 g sodium saccharine 0.02 g sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g peppermint oil 0.5 g demin. water q.s. to 100 g

EXAMPLE 7

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| a.i. | polymixin B sulfate | 1.000.000 I.U. |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| | neomycin sulfate | 0.5 g |
| | <u>Lidocaine chloride</u> | 4 g |
| | propylene glycol | 10 g |
| | colloidal silica | 3 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 0.5 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | rose essence | 0.2 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

EXAMPLE 8

| a.i. | fluocinolone acetonide | 0.025 g |
|------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| | propylene glycol | 10 g |
| | colloidal silica | 4 g |
| | gliceryl monostearate self-emulsifier | 4 g |
| | Span 60 | 0.5 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | lavender essence | 0.2 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

EXAMPLE 9

| a.i. | <u>betametasone valerate</u> | 0.1 g |
|------|---------------------------------|--------|
| | propylene glycol | 5 g |
| | colloidal silica | 5 g |
| | isopropyl alcohol | 5 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 0.5 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | lavender essence | 0.1 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

EXAMPLE 10

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EXAMPLE 11

| meclocycline anhydrous sulfosalicylate | 2.914 g |
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| propylene glycol | 4 g |
| glycerin U.P. | 1 g |
| colloidal silica | 3,5 g |
| esterified polyoxyethylene glycols | 3 g |
| polysorbate 80 | 0.5 g |
| sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| rose essence | 0.2 g |
| demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |
| | propylene glycol glycerin U.P. colloidal silica esterified polyoxyethylene glycols polysorbate 80 sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate rose essence |

a.i. naproxene 10 g colloidal silica 5 g ethyl alcohol 10 g polysorbate 80 0.75 g sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g camphor 0.2 g demin. water q.s. to 100 g

2 g

5 g

2 g

6 g

10 g

0.50 g

0.15 g

0.05 g

0.05 g

100 g

5.000 I.U.

a.i.

<u>escin</u>

sodium heparin

transcutol

colloidal silica

ethyl alcohol

camphor

polysorbate 80

lavender essence

demin. water q.s. to

diethylamine salicylate

sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate

EXAMPLE 12

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25 EXAMPLE 13

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| a.i. | capsaicin oleoresin 1 g (= 0.01 g capsaicin) | 2 g |
|------|--|--------|
| | propylene glycol | 1 g |
| | colloidal silica | 5 g |
| | ethyl alcohol | 2 g |
| | polyoxyethylen glycol 300 | 5 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 0.80 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | camphor | 0.2 g |
| | menthol | 0.2 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

EXAMPLE 14

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| a.i. | sodium heparin | 5.000 U.E.B. |
|------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| | ethyl alcohol | 10 g |
| | propylene glycol | 10 g |
| | colloidal silica | 6 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 0.50 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | camphor | 0.6 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

EXAMPLE 15

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| a.i. | sodium heparin | 10.000 I.U. |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| | <u>escin</u> | 1 g |
| | phosphatidyl choline | 0.8 g |
| | isopropyl alcohol | 15 g |
| | propylene glycol | 5 g |
| | colloidal silica | 6 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 1 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | lavender essence | 0.1 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

5.000 U.E.B.

5.000 I.U.

EXAMPLE 16

a.i.

sodium heparin

<u>jalurononidase</u>

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25 **EXAMPLE 17**

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| <u>desametasone</u> | 0.05 g |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| tetracaine hydrochloride | 0.1 g |
| retinol palmitate | 25.000 I.U. |
| ethyl alcohol | 2 g |
| colloidal silica | 3 g |
| propylene glycol | 10 g |
| Myrj 52 | 1 g |
| sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| menthol | 0.1 g |
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| | |

0.5 g hydrocortisone acetate 5 g <u>benzocaine</u> 5.000 I.U. sodium heparin colloidal silica 5 g propylene glycol 7 g isopropyl myristate 3 g polysorbate 80 1 g sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g menthol 0.25 g demin. water q.s. to 100 g

EXAMPLE 18

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EXAMPLE 19

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| a.i. | Hamamelis hydroalcoholic extract | 0.75 g |
|------|----------------------------------|--------|
| | tannic acid | 5 g |
| | benzalkonium chloride | 1 g |
| | ethyl alcohol | 4 g |
| | propylene glycol | 5 g |
| | colloidal silica | 5 g |
| | Cetomacrogol 1000 | 0.5 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | bergamot oil | 0.1 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |
| | | |

a.i. chlorhexidine 1 g ethyl alcohol 3 g isopropyl myristate 4 g propylene glycol 2 g colloidal silica 3 **g** polysorbate 80 0.5 g sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g bergamot oil 0.1 g demin. water q.s. to 100 g

EXAMPLE 20

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EXAMPLE 21

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| a.i. | benzyl alcohol | 4 g |
|------|---------------------------------|--------|
| | <u>benzocaine</u> | 5 g |
| | <u>chloroxylenol</u> | 0.5 g |
| | ethyl alcohol | 5 g |
| | propylene glycol | 8 g |
| | colloidal silica | 5 g |
| | Bryj 35 | 0.5 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | bergamot oil | 0.1 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

<u>acyclovir</u> 5 g ethyl alcohol 5 g propylene glycol 10 g colloidal silica 5 g polysorbate 80 0.5 g sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g peppermint oil 0.3 g demin. water q.s. to 100 g

EXAMPLE 22

EXAMPLE 23

| a.i. | <u>escin</u> | 0.3 g |
|------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| | <u>levothyroxine</u> | 0.05 g |
| | ethyl alcohol | 10 g |
| | propylene glycol | 2 g |
| | colloidal silica | 3,5 g |
| | esterified polyeoxyethylene glycols | 3 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 1 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | lily of the valley essence | 0.3 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

| a.i. | <u>vitamin E</u> | 550 I.U. |
|------|--|----------|
| | propylene glycol | 1 g |
| | Jojoba oil | 1 g |
| | colloidal silica | 3 g |
| | anhydrous lanolin | 1 g |
| | Labrafil M1944 CS | 3 g |
| | polyoxyethylene glycol palmitostearate | 2 g |
| | Tween 20 | 0.75 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | rose perfume | 0.5 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

EXAMPLE 24

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beclometasone dipropionate 10 mg propylene glycol 10 g colloidal silica 3.5 g 0.7 g polysorbate 80 sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g 0.3 g menthol camphor 0.2 g demin. water q.s. to 100 g

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EXAMPLE 25

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| a.i. | 2,4-dichlorobenzyl alcohol | 600 mg |
|------|---------------------------------|--------|
| | propylene glycol | 6 g |
| | colloidal silica | 3 g |
| | ethyl alcohol | 10 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 0.5 g |
| | sodium saccharine | 0.03 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | mint essence | 0.3 g |
| | menthol | 100 mg |
| | balsamic flavor | 1 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

EXAMPLE 26

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| a.i. | <u>thiocolchicoside</u> | 0.25 g |
|------|---------------------------------|--------|
| | propylene glycol | 7 g |
| | colloidal silica | 3.5 g |
| | 70% sorbitol | 5.0 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 0.5 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroyybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | lavender essence | 0.5 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

ketoprofene lysine salts

methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate

propylene glycol colloidal silica

polysorbate 80

lavender essence

demin. water q.s. to

camphor

15 g

5.5 g

2.5 g

0.5 g

0.15 g

0.1 g

0.1 g

100 g

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EXAMPLE 27

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EXAMPLE 28

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| a.i. | sodium heparin | 10000 I.U. |
|------|--------------------------|------------|
| | propylene glycol | 5 g |
| | colloidal silica | 3.5 g |
| | 70% sorbitol | 8 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 0.5 g |
| | methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | nerolene lavender | 0.2 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

EXAMPLE 29

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EXAMPLE 30

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| a.i. | benzalkonium chloride | 1 g |
|------|--------------------------|--------|
| | propylene glycol | 5 g |
| | colloidal silica | 3.5 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 0.5 g |
| | methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | lavender essence | 0.2 g |
| | lemon essence | 0.4 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

deschlorpheniramine maleate a.i. 1 g ethyl alcohol 3 g propylene glycol 5 g gliceryl monostearate self-emulsifier 5 g 70% sorbitol 5 g colloidal silica 3.5 g 0.7 g polysorbate 80 methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g rose essence 0.1 g demin. water q.s. to 100 g

1 g

5 g

10 g 3.0 g

1 g

 $0.15\,\mathrm{g}$

 $0.5\,\mathrm{g}$

100 g

a.i.

<u>metronidazole</u>

ethyl alcohol

propylene glycol

methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate

lily of the valley essence

demin. water. q.s. to

colloidal silica polysorbate 80

EXAMPLE 31

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PARA-PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATIONS

EXAMPLE 32

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| Facia | ll astringent masque | |
|-------|----------------------------------|--------|
| a.i. | Hamamelis hydroalcoholic extract | 5 g |
| | nettle oily extract | 2 g |
| | propylene glycol | 5 g |
| | colloidal silica | 5 g |
| | polysorbate 60 | 1 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | lemon essence | 0.07 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

EXAMPLE 33

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EXAMPLE 34

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| Sun shield gel | | |
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| a.i. | β carotene solution in vegetable oil | 3 g |
| | Hypericum oily extract | 2 g |
| | propylene glycol | 2 g |
| | colloidal silica | 5 g |
| | polysorbate 80 | 1 g |
| | sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate | 0.15 g |
| | sandalwood essence | 0.1 g |
| | demin. water q.s. to | 100 g |

Face spray gel detergent sulfur glycolic solution 1 g benzoyl peroxide 4 g isopropyl alcohol 4 g propylene glycol 10 g colloidal silica 5 g polysorbate 80 0.7 g sodium methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g rose essence 0.3 g demin. water q.s. to 100 g

EXAMPLE 35

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EXAMPLE 36

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Claims

Astringent facial masque Burdock hydroalcoholic extract 1 g Cornflower hydroalcoholic extract 1 g propylene glycol 4 g colloidal silica 3.5 gpolysorbate 80 0.5gmethyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g apricot flavour 0.2 g demin. water q.s. to 100 g

Face detergent Ruscus hydroalcoholic extract 1 g Asparagus hydroalcoholic extract 1 g propylene glycol 5 g colloidal silica 3 g polysorbate 80 0.5 gmethyl-p-hydroxybenzoate 0.15 g rose essence 0.3 g100 g demin. water q.s. to

- 45 1. Pharmaceutical compositions in form of thyxotropic gel containing an active ingredient, from 2 to 15% of a colloidal silica, water and optionally excipients.
 - 2. Pharmaceutical compositions according to claim 1 further comprising a solvent selected from glycerol, polyoxyeth-ylene glycol, diethylene glycol monoalkyl ether (Transcutol™), N-methylpyrrolidone, glycofurol, isopropanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol in an amount from 1 to 10% by weight.
 - 3. Pharmaceutical compositions according to claim 2, wherein the solvent is propylene glycol.
 - 4. Pharmaceutical compositions according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the colloidal silica has a surface area ranging from 130 to 300 m²/g and an average diameter of 12 nm.
 - 5. Pharmaceutical compositions according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the colloidal silica has a surface area ranging from 200-25 m²/g and an average diameter of 12 nm.

- **6.** Formulations according to any one of the previous claims wherein the excipients are selected from surfactants, preservatives, flavouring agents, co-solvents and lipophilic phases.
- 7. Formulations according to any one of the previous claims, wherein water is present in an amount ranging from 60 to 97% by weight.

- 8. Formulations according to any one of the previous claims, further comprising a surfactant selected from sorbitan esters, polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters, polyoxyethylene stearates.
- 10 9. Formulations according to any one of the previous claims, containing from 2 to 7% by weight of colloidal silica.
 - 10. Spray pharmaceutical compositions containing the gels of claims 1-9 in containers with mechanical pump.



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number EP 96 10 4268

| | DOCUMENTS CONSIDE | KED TO BE KELEAY | NI | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indica of relevant passage | | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CL6) | |
| 1 | GB-A-1 572 032 (H0ECHS * claims * * example 5 * | T UK LTD.) | 1-10 | A61K9/06 A61K47/02 | |
| ١ | US-A-5 214 035 (J.L. V * the whole document * | - EATCH) | 1-10 | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) | |
| | | | | A61K | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | The present search report has been d | rawn up for all claims | | | |
| | Place of search | Date of completion of the search | <u> </u> | Examiner | |
| | THE HAGUE | 25 June 1996 | Sca | arponi, U | |
| X : part Y : part doc | CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS ticularly relevant if taken alone ticularly relevant if combined with another ument of the same category inological background | T: theory or prin E: earlier patent after the filin D: document cite L: document cite | ciple underlying the document, but pub g date ed in the application d for other reasons | e invention lished on, or | |
| O: non | -written disclosure rmediate document | | same patent family, corresponding | | |

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)